

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Yuri HASEGAWA et al.

Allowed: June 24, 2005

Application No.: 09/530,136

Confirmation No.: 4078

Filed: April 27, 2000

Art Unit: 2624

For: IMAGE CODING APPARATUS, IMAGE
CODING METHOD, IMAGE DECODING
APPARATUS AND IMAGE DECODING
METHOD

Examiner: A. H. Do

LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached hereto is a copy of a Japanese Office Action, which issued on July 4, 2006 in Applicants' corresponding Japanese application, along with an English translation thereof. The attached Office Action further comments on the relevance of the previously cited references. The documents discussed in the Japanese Office Action were previously cited by the Applicants. JP 08-125967 was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 3, 2003, and JP 9/507976 and WO 94/17634 were cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 25, 2002. Note that Japanese Publication No. 11-196411, which is also discussed in the Japanese Office Action, corresponds to Applicants' priority application, i.e., Japanese Application No. 10-054964.

The attached Office Action merely supplements the information previously provided to the Patent Office in the earlier submitted Information Disclosure Statements.

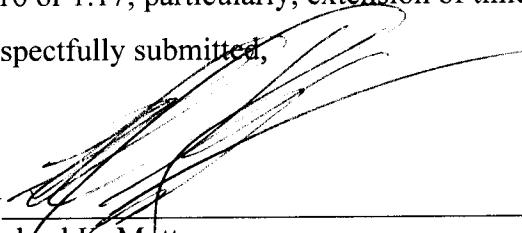
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone

number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Michael K. Mutter
Registration No.: 29,680
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicants